



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

GREGORY G. LOCKHART
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

221 East Fourth Street, Suite 400 • Cincinnati, OH 45202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Fred Alverson
(614) 469-2057 Ext. 1604

WOMAN INDICTED FOR THREATENING FEDERAL JUDGE

CINCINNATI -- A federal grand jury here has indicted Courtney Ann McFinley, age 44, of Cincinnati for mailing a letter containing a threat to a federal judge.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Jim Wahlrab, U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, announced the indictment returned Wednesday.

The one-count indictment alleges that McFinley mailed a letter to U.S. District Judge Susan J. Dlott on March 3, 2005. The letter contained a threat to injure the Judge, according to the indictment.

"In light of the fact that judges and courthouses have been recent targets of crime, we take such threats very seriously," Lockhart said. McFinley has been in custody since March 4, 2005.

Mailing a threatening letter to a Federal Judge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

McFinley appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Timothy S. Hogan on Wednesday for a competency hearing. Judge Hogan determined that McFinley currently is not competent to stand trial. He ordered her hospitalized at a Federal Medical Center run by the Federal Bureau of Prisons for treatment in an effort to restore her to competency. Her status will be re-evaluated in four months.

Lockhart commended the investigation conducted by the United States Marshals Service.

An indictment is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

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